

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A data storage or recording device suitable for use in a severe environment, comprising a cartridge having a stud hermetically mounted on the cartridge and

a receptacle having a plug, wherein,

the cartridge is engageable in the receptacle,

the receptacle is suspended by a shock absorber mounted in a box with a hood, and

when engaged, the cartridge and the receptacle are electrically connected by the cooperation of the plug and the stud, said plug and said stud being connected by point contact and without lateral contact, wherein opening the hood disengages the shock absorber by engaging a means for temporarily and automatically locking the movement of the receptacle.

29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the cartridge (40) comprises a data support.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 29, wherein the data support is a hard disk.

31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the receptacle is suspended by multidirectional shock absorbers.

32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, comprising a plurality of plug and stud pairs, each plug and stud pair corresponding to one electrical contact between the cartridge and the receptacle.

33. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the studs have a surface shape selected from concave, planar and convex.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the plugs (10) have a head with a rounded shape at the top.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, further comprising a cushioning means (11), wherein the plugs are mounted elastically on the receptacle (30) by the cushioning means.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the cushioning means (11) comprises a spring or a piston.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the plug is positioned in a plate (95) on the receptacle (30).

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the stud is positioned in a plate (95) on the cartridge (40).

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, comprising several zones of corresponding plugs and studs that are opposite each other when the cartridge is engaged in the receptacle.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the stud comprises a rod (45), the stud being mounted and positioned by said rod in an opening in a wall of the cartridge (40) by glass welding (4).

41. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 40, further comprising a mold of protective material (60) deposited around a head (46) of the stud.

42. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 41, wherein the protective material comprises a resin.

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the stud comprises a metal or an electrically-conducting alloy.

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, further comprising a metal coating on the stud.

45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 44, wherein the metal coating comprises gold.

46. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the cartridge (40) further comprises an integral clip (100), said clip comprising a groove (105) and

wherein the receptacle (30) further comprises a protuberant part (120) that is integral with a U-shaped engagement piece (110, 140) which is integral with the receptacle (30),

said groove and said protuberant part cooperating to form a tight fit when the cartridge is engaged in the receptacle.

47. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 46, wherein the clip engages the U-shaped engagement piece.

48. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 46, wherein the protuberant part (120) is a cylindrical pin and

the groove (105) is a semi-cylindrical groove adapted to tightly receive said pin.

49. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 46, wherein the cartridge and the receptacle are engaged by resting the protuberant part (120) on the edge of the groove (105) and movement of the cartridge to contact the stud with the plug causes the protuberant part to roll in to the center of the groove.

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50. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 28, wherein the contact surfaces of the plug and the stud are self cleaned during engagement of the cartridge in the receptacle.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[51]]~~ 28, wherein said receptacle being suspended in said box engages said absorber according to a movement of said hood.

53-55. (Canceled).

56. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 28, wherein the return force for the plugs (10) by the cushioning means (11) is about 1 N for each plug.

57. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 52, further comprising a means for automatically cutting the electrical power supply to the cartridge when hood (70) is open.

58. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 57, wherein the means for cutting the power supply comprises an opening detection contact means mounted on the hood (70) and on a portion of the box that contacts the hood and contains the receptacle (30).

59. (Canceled).

60. (Currently Amended) A data storage or recording device for a severe environment comprising a cartridge (40) and a suspended receptacle (30), wherein the cartridge and receptacle are electrically connected by the cooperation of a plug (10) mounted elastically on the receptacle (30) and a stud (12, 16, or 18) hermetically mounted on the cartridge (40) said plug (10) and said stud (12, 16, or 18) connected by

contact and not by insertion, wherein the connection between cartridge (40) and receptacle (30) is made by a plurality of pairs of plugs (10) and studs (12, 16, or 18);

said plugs (10) extending through the wall of the of the receptacle (30) and presenting a protuberant portion having a rounded shape;

said plugs being mounted on a shock absorption and return means (11);

said studs (12, 16, or 18) protruding through the walls of the cartridge (40) and presenting a slightly protuberant part;

said cartridge (40) and said receptacle (30) further comprising engagement means capable of positioning said plugs (10) and said studs (12, 16, 18) opposite each other so as to make an effective electrical contact and to ensure the mechanical hold of the cartridge (40) in the receptacle (30);

said plugs (10) and said studs (12, 16, or 18) generically adapted to cooperate and create an effective electrical contact when the receptacle (30) and cartridge (40) are engaged with one another; and

wherein opening a hood (70) disengages a shock absorber (300) by engaging a means for temporarily and automatically locking the movement of the receptacle (30).

61. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 60, wherein each plug and stud pair corresponds to one electrical contact between the cartridge and the receptacle.

62. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 60, wherein the studs have a shape selected from concave, planar and convex.

63. (Currently Amended) A process for hermetically connecting a data recording and storage cartridge (40) and a receptacle (30) for use in a severe environment, comprising

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contacting, without inserting, a plug (10) mounted elastically on the receptacle (30) with a stud (12, 16, or 18) hermetically sealed on the cartridge (40) to form an electrical connection between said stud and said plug, wherein said receptacle (30) disengages a shock absorber (300) when a hood (70) is opened by engaging a means for temporarily and automatically locking the movement of the receptacle (30).

64. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 63, wherein the rod (45) of the stud is mounted and positioned in an opening in a wall of the cartridge (40) by glass welding (4).

65. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 63, wherein a mold of protective material (60) is deposited around a head (46) of the stud.

66. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 65, wherein the protective material comprises a resin.

67. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 63, wherein the contact is made during an engagement of the cartridge (40) into the receptacle (30).

68. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein the engagement comprises slidingly engaging a clip (100) comprising a groove (105) integral with the cartridge (40) into a U-shaped opening of an engagement piece (110, 140) of the receptacle (30), said engagement piece comprising a protuberant part (120),

descendingly engaging the groove (105) to a position slightly askew of the protuberant part (120),

positioning a contact face of the cartridge (40) with a contact face of the receptacle (30), and

tightly fitting the protuberant part (120) into the groove (105).

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69. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 68, wherein the protuberant part (120) rests on an edge of the groove (105) after positioning the contact face of the cartridge (40) with the contact face of the receptacle (30), and

the contacting of said stud and said plug causes the pin to roll in the center of the groove.

70. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 68, wherein the engagement results in a self-cleaning of the surfaces of the plug and the stud.